DANGER 14

IF THEY NOTICE THREE PEOPLE, CHATTING AWAY, THEN THEY'LL HEAD OFF IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
BEARS ARE SURPRISINGLY PERCEPTIVE AND COWARDLY..
OR THEY'RE HUNGRY, OR INJURED, IT MIGHT BE A BIT DIFFERENT...
WELL, IF THEY'VE A KID..
HMM
AH...
WELL, WHAT IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE OF US?
IF YOU WERE TO FIND YOURSELF IN SUCH A SPOT, YOU SHOULD SING OUT, TO TRY AND MAKE YOURSELF MORE IMPOSING.
FOR STARTERS IT'S NOT RECOMMENDED THAT YOU GO PLACES WHERE BEARS ARE BY YOURSELF.
SAY, DAD..
IS THIS REALLY OKAY?
WON'T THERE BE BEARS?
YOU SURE LIKE TO WORRY SIS
SHUT UP YOU!

I LONG FOR THE MOUNTAINSSS... THE RIVER'S MURMURIIING... STUDY STRONG, IT'S AN HONOUUUR!
THE BOY SANG LOUDLY, HALF TO WARN OFF ANY BEARS IN THE AREA, HALF TO TRY AND ALERT HIS FRIENDS.
ROOOTEEED IN THE GROUUUND... I LOOOOK UP AT THE SKYYY!
STUDYYY PURE, HOPE'S LIIIGHT!
THE THIRD, THE THIRD, OUR SCHOOL, THE THIIIRD...
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THIS WAS HOW THE BOY...
WHILE SCARED OF ATTACK BY WILD BEASTS...
IT'S COLD.
AND TIRED FROM A WHOLE DAY WALKING...
SPENT THE NIGHT...

GREAT... IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I WAS ATTACKED.
IT'S MORN-ING...
UUH...
...
WAH, WAH!
WAH!
H... H...
HOLD ON NOW...
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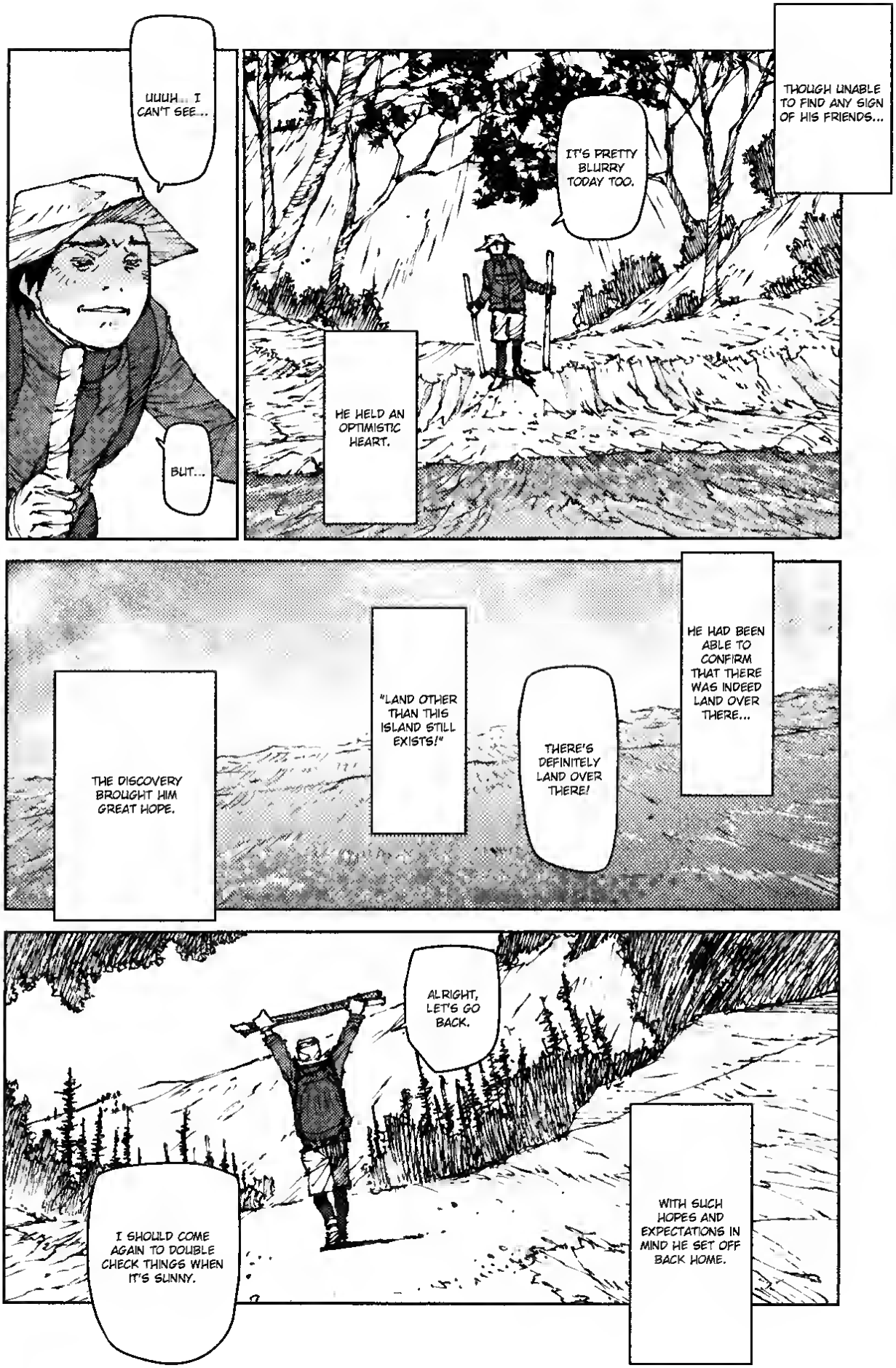
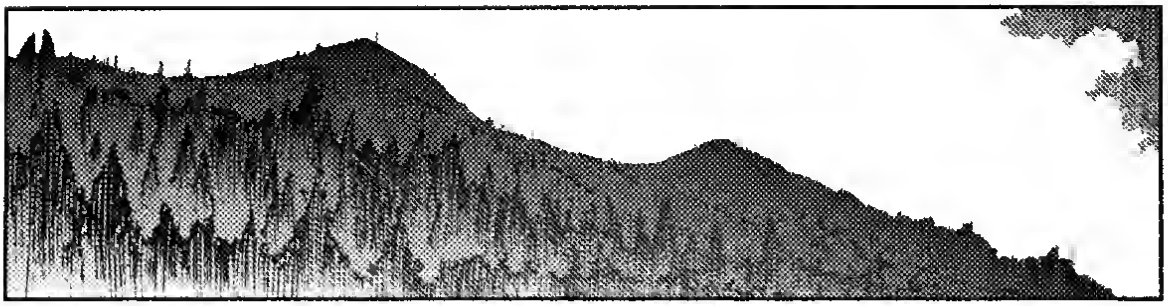
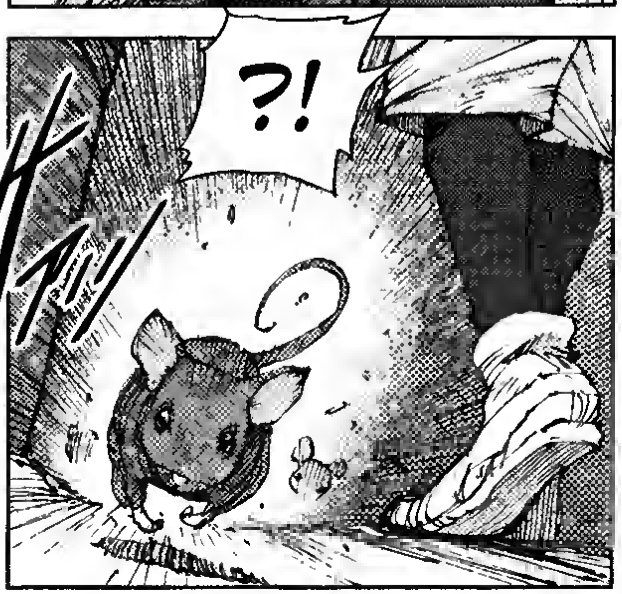
HEH...
IT WAS BLURRY, AND I COULDN'T REALLY SEE IT...
HAAH.. AAH...
THAT DAY, AND THE DAY AFTER...
IT'S A BLESSIIING!
BUT WAS THAT...
ANO-THER... LAND?
THE BOY LOOKED FOR THE DISTANT ISLAND.


UUUH... I CAN'T SEE...
BUT...
IT'S PRETTY BLURRY TODAY TOO.
HE HELD AN OPTIMISTIC HEART.
THOUGH UNABLE TO FIND ANY SIGN OF HIS FRIENDS...
THE DISCOVERY BROUGHT HIM GREAT HOPE.
"LAND OTHER THAN THIS ISLAND STILL EXISTS!"
THERE'S DEFINITELY LAND OVER THERE!
HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THERE WAS INDEED LAND OVER THERE...
I SHOULD COME AGAIN TO DOUBLE CHECK THINGS WHEN IT'S SUNNY.
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO BACK.
WITH SUCH HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS IN MIND HE SET OFF BACK HOME.

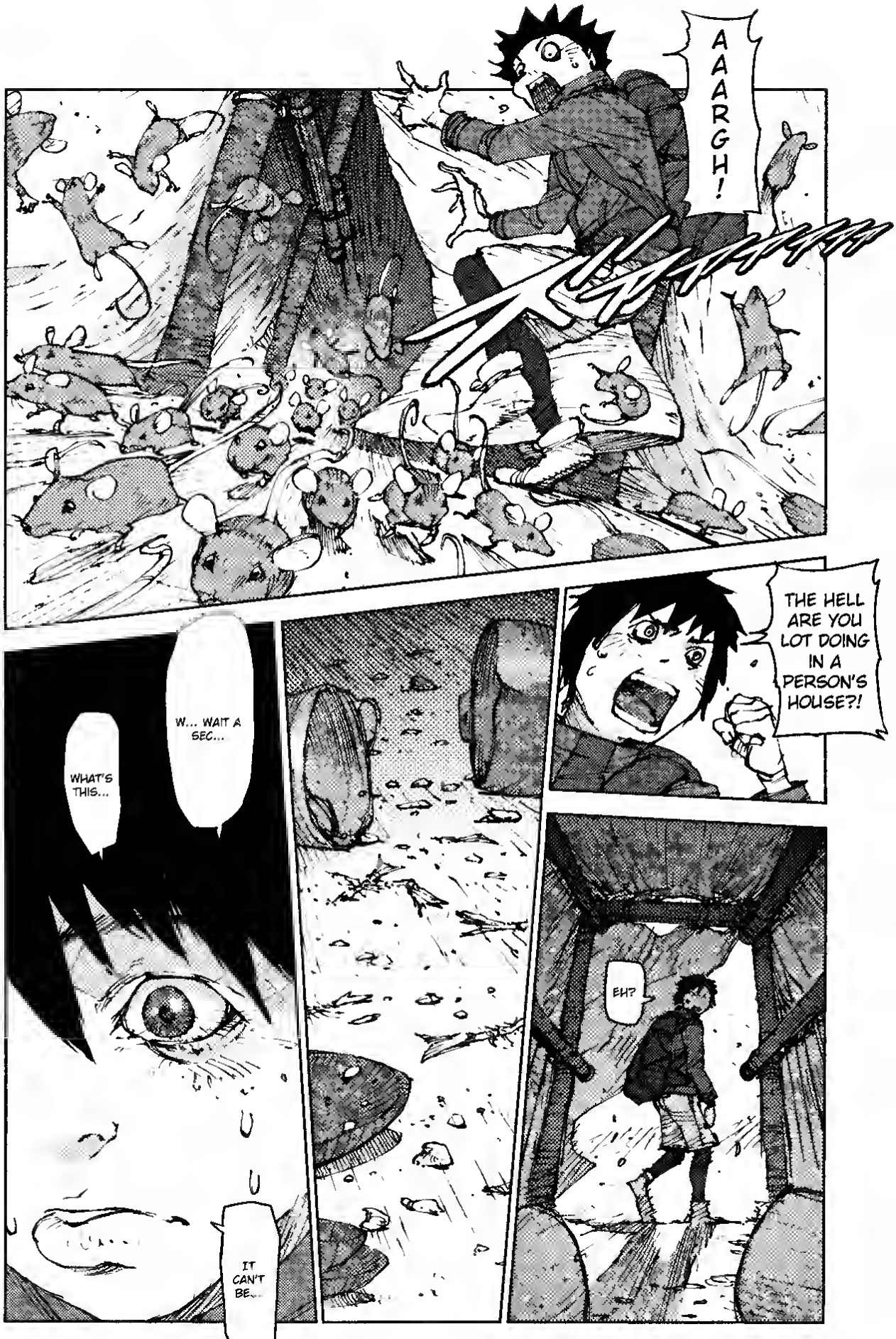


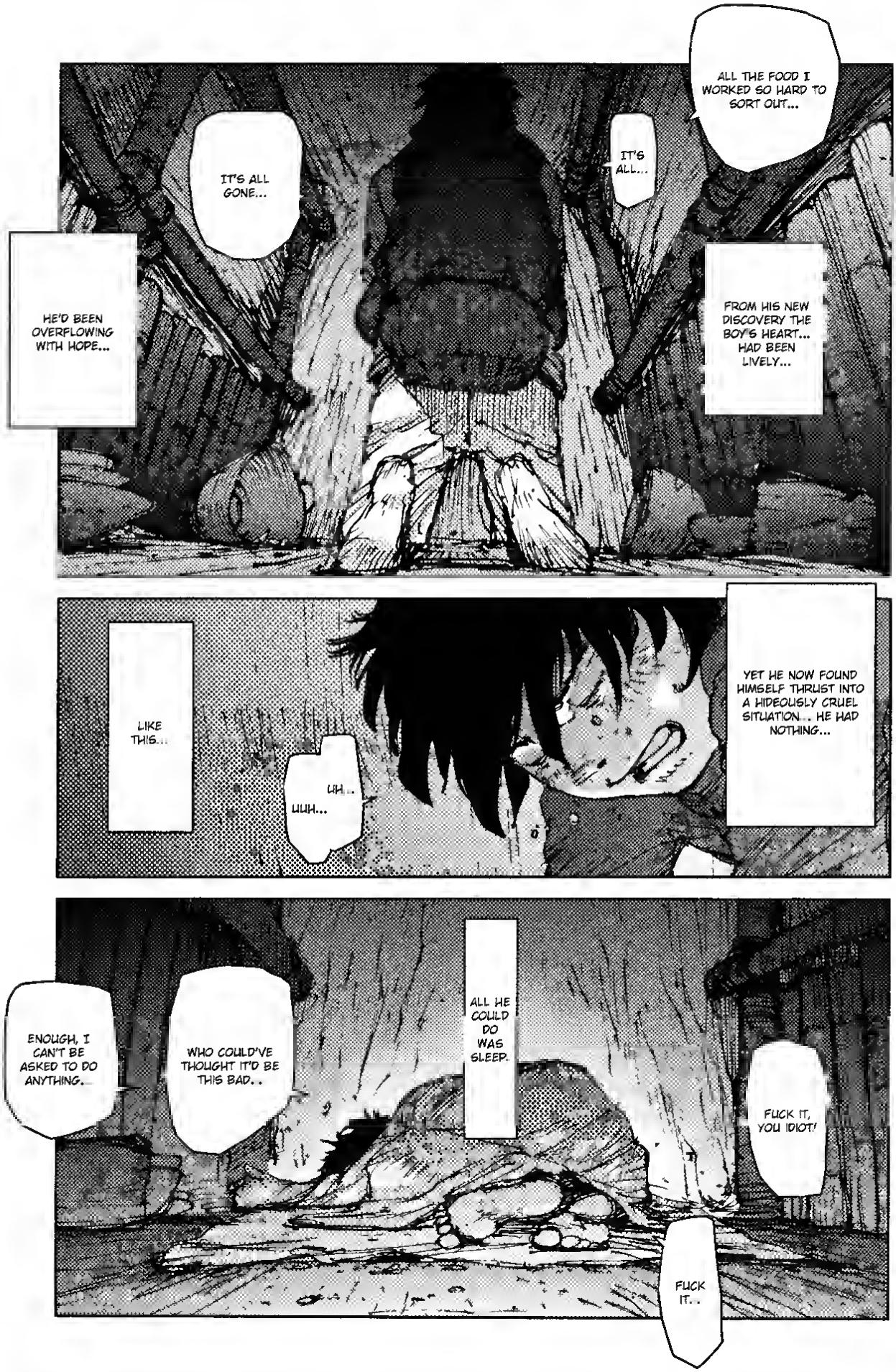
EVEN IF IT IS JUST A HOLE, IT'S SOMEWHAT REASSURING TO THINK OF IT AS HOME.
YOU KNOW...

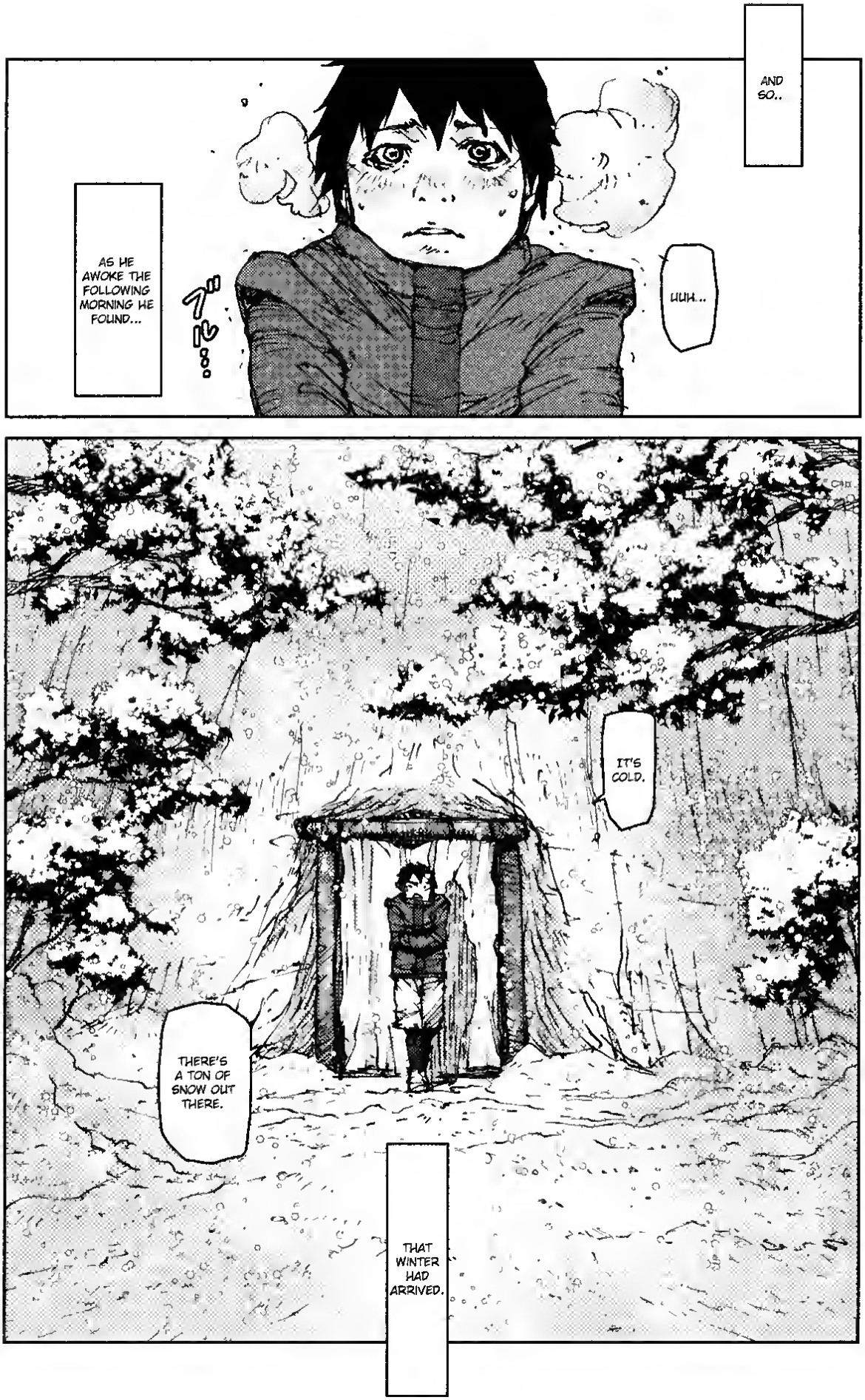
I'M BAAACK!


?!

OKAAAY, IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS BUT I'M HOME.


AAARGH!
THE HELL ARE YOU LOT DOING IN A PERSON'S HOUSE?!
EH?
W... WAIT A SEC...
WHAT'S THIS...
IT CAN'T BE...


ALL THE FOOD I WORKED SO HARD TO SORT OUT...
IT'S ALL...
IT'S ALL GONE...
HE'D BEEN OVERFLOWING WITH HOPE...
FROM HIS NEW DISCOVERY THE BOY'S HEART... HAD BEEN LIVELY...
YET HE NOW FOUND HIMSELF THRUST INTO A HIDEOUSLY CRUEL SITUATION... HE HAD NOTHING...
LIKE THIS...
UH... UUH...
ENOUGH, I CAN'T BE ASKED TO DO ANYTHING...
WHO COULD'VE THOUGHT IT'D BE THIS BAD..
ALL HE COULD DO WAS SLEEP.
FUCK IT, YOU IDIOT!
FUCK IT..


AND SO..
AS HE AWOKE THE FOLLOWING MORNING HE FOUND...
ブルル...
UUH..
IT'S COLD.
THERE'S A TON OF SNOW OUT THERE.
THAT WINTER HAD ARRIVED.